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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,896	08/13/2001	Gary Austin	32866US1	8149

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EXAMINER

BUSHEY, CHARLES S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.

09/928,896

Applicant(s)

AUSTIN ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Bushey

Art Unit

1724

Office Action Summary*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133)
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b)

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003 and 16 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11-15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

*(This section applies to applications filed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application))***Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

4) Interview Summary, (PTO-413) Paper No(s)
 Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Palmer (Figs. 1 and 2).

Applicant should note that a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

In accordance with the above case law, applicant should note that the material worked on cannot lend patentable weight to an apparatus claim. Therefore since the reference apparatus is capable of use with air and water as the chosen materials of contact, the reference is considered to meet the claim limitations. With respect to the water level being higher toward the outlet end of the apparatus, such would be an inherent result of pressurized gas flow through the apparatus from inlet toward outlet. Further the occurrence of an eddy within the gas stream would also be an inherent condition within the reference apparatus, dependent only upon the chosen gas

3. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ehlinger '067 (The Figure).

With respect to the water level being higher toward the outlet end of the apparatus, such would be an inherent result of pressurized gas flow through the apparatus from inlet toward outlet. Further the occurrence of an eddy within the gas stream would also be an inherent condition within the reference apparatus, dependent only upon the chosen gas pressure and velocity within the contact device.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Bushey whose telephone number is (703) 308-3581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine R. Copenheaver can be reached on (703) 308-1261. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

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Scott Bushey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

csb
August 12, 2003


8-12-03